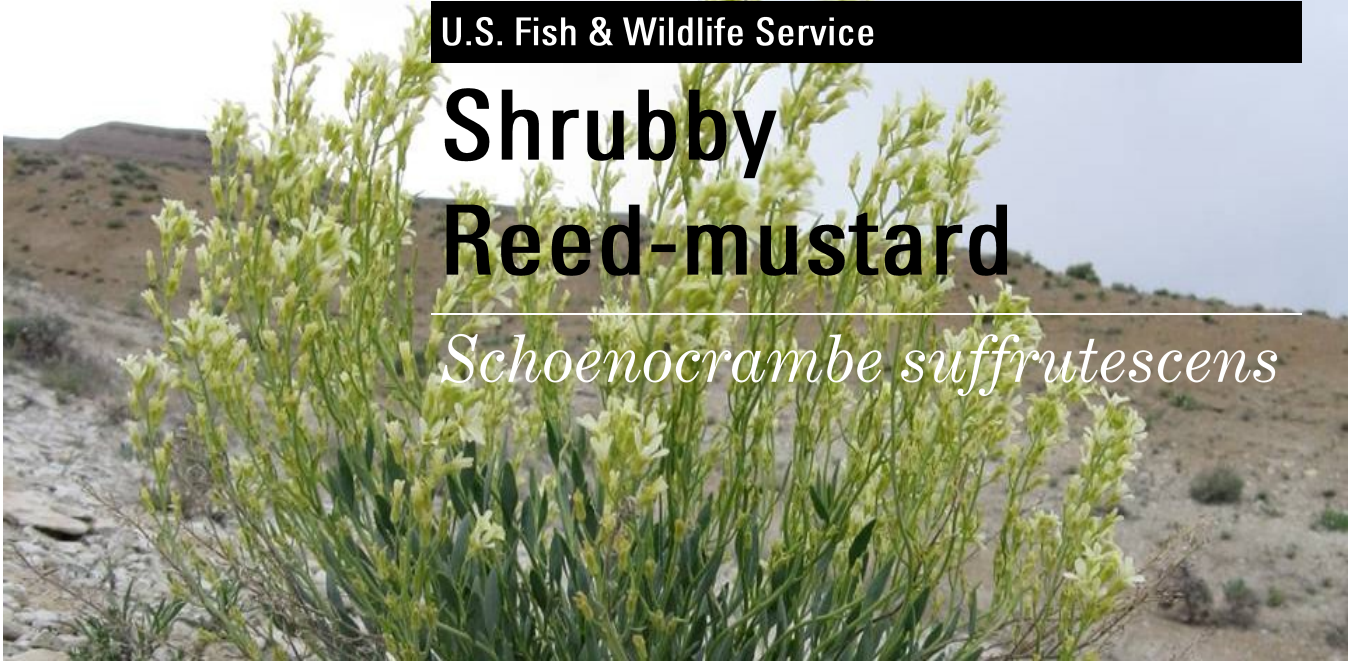


Shrubby Reed-mustard

Schoenocrambe suffrutescens



Shrubby reed-mustard / USFWS

What does the shrubby reed-mustard look like?

Shrubby reed-mustard is a small, sparsely-leaved perennial herb in the mustard family. This shrubby plant can grow 6 - 12 inches tall. The leaves are smooth and up to 1.5 inches wide. The small flowers are light yellow or greenish-yellow. Flowering occurs April to May.

Shrubby reed-mustard is closely related to clay reed-mustard, but these two species grow in vastly different habitats. We are in the process of officially updating the scientific name of shrubby reed-mustard in the Federal Register to *Hesperidanthus suffrutescens*, the most currently accepted taxonomy for this species.

Where does the shrubby reed-mustard occur?

Shrubby reed-mustard occurs primarily on one or two barren, white shale lenses of the Green River formation on Bureau of Land Management and Ute Tribe lands in the Uinta Basin, Utah. The plant community typically contains mixed desert shrubs and piñon and juniper trees.

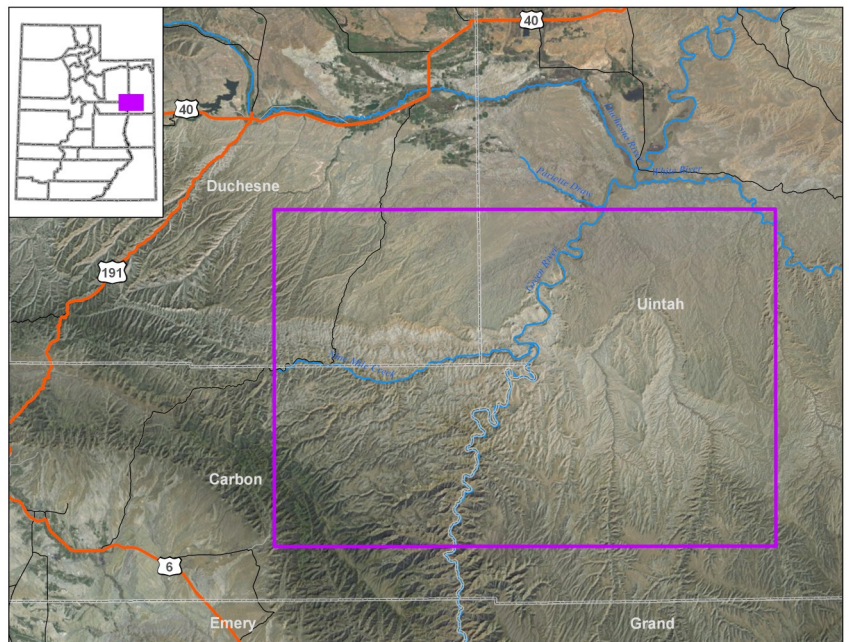
Legal Status under the Endangered Species Act

Shrubby reed-mustard was listed as endangered on October 6, 1987 (52 FR 37416).

Why does the shrubby reed-mustard need protection?

This species was likely always rare, but when we listed shrubby reed-mustard there was evidence that the historical, range-wide collection of building stones in

shrubby reed-mustard habitat led to this species' decline. Other threats at the time of listing included historical overgrazing, oil and gas development, and small population size. Mining of building stones and grazing still impact individuals of this species, but on a much more localized scale. Oil and gas development remains a serious threat to shrubby reed-mustard. The species' habitat is also underlain by oil shale deposits



Species Range / USFWS



Shrubby reed-mustard in white shale habitat / Bekee Hotze, USFWS

that are likely to be mined in the foreseeable future—oil shale production at one site in the Uinta Basin is planned to begin in 2012. Small population size also remains a concern for this species, as we currently estimate only about 3,000 of these plants exist.

What have we done to recover the shrubby reed-mustard?

In September 1994, we published a recovery plan that lists necessary actions to recover the species. We are working with our Federal, Tribal, State, and private partners to implement these recovery efforts.

Since 2006, we have participated in the public-private partnership of the Uinta Basin Rare Plant Forum. Members of this forum work to identify conservation actions for rare plants, including shrubby reed-mustard.

We are currently working with the BLM, Utah State University, and XTO Energy to fund and conduct research on shrubby reed-mustard. Projects include reproduction and pollination research, describing soil characteristics of shrubby reed-mustard habitat, road dust monitoring, and demographic monitoring. Results from these projects will be available within the next few years.

What do we need to do to recover the shrubby reed-mustard?

In our last status review of shrubby reed-mustard (November 2010), we identified the following actions needed for species recovery:

- We recommend completing range-wide, comprehensive surveys, especially on Tribal lands.
- We recommend monitoring to collect demographic and reproduction data.
- We recommend looking into the feasibility of reintroducing shrubby reed-mustard to new areas of suitable, unoccupied



Matt Lewis, Utah State University graduate student, measures a shrubby reed-mustard plant / Jessi Brunson, USFWS

habitat. Potential reintroduction areas should be identified through current research that is characterizing the soil habitat of shrubby reed-mustard.

- We will continue to work proactively with Federal, Tribal, State, and private partners to determine biologically important areas for long-term species conservation.

More Information

To learn more about the shrubby reed-mustard and conservation efforts on behalf of the species, please visit the following sites:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Endangered Species Program’s website: www.fws.gov/endangered

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Information, Planning and Conservation (IPaC) System: ecos.fws.gov/ipac

Mountain-Prairie Regional Office’s website: <http://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/species/plants/>

The Utah Field Office’s website: www.fws.gov/utahfieldoffice

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Region 6

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